

CAT Scan

“Contentment And Thanksgiving”

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

A CAT Scan, known medically as Computed Axial Tomography (CAT), is a non-invasive, diagnostic x-ray procedure in which multiple images (pictures) are taken, allowing physicians to see inside the body with more clarity than is possible with a traditional x-ray. If the Great Physician (Jesus) took a CAT Scan of your life would He find “Contentment And Thanksgiving?” Would spiritual x-rays reveal that these attributes appear as part of the structure of your being?

I am reminded of a story of a devout Quaker who was outdoors in his yard one day watching a neighbor move in next door. He observed various kinds of modern appliances, electronic equipment, nice furniture, and all sorts of spectacular items being carried into this new home. After a little contemplation, the spectator (Quaker) called out to his new neighbor and said, “If you find you’re lacking anything neighbor, let me know, and I’ll show you how to live without it!”

In reality, folks probably worry more with having to keep up with more, rather than having less and worrying less. Perhaps the less we have materialistically we can develop a simpler lifestyle, which really is genuine satisfaction that brings true contentment and thanksgiving. I have heard the expression *“Contentment is not found in having everything, but in being satisfied with everything you have.”*

In route to the Promise Land, the Children of Israel grumbled, which was obvious that they were not content and thankful (Exodus 15:24, 16:2, 17:3; Numbers 14:2; I Corinthians 10:10). Will you choose to be discontent as they were? As such, one is never satisfied with what he or she has. If it’s money, there never is enough. If it’s a home, somebody else has a nicer one. If it’s appearance, another person looks better. If we have something old, we want something new. If it’s new, we want something newer. If we have something small, we want something bigger. If it’s big, we want something even larger. The list continues...it never seems to stop.

The Bible even breaks it down like this, saying, *“And having food and raiment let us be therewith content”* (I Timothy 6:8). Wow, we have so much to be content and thankful for; some people in this world don’t even have sufficient food and raiment, but we probably do.

Scan over your life, and if contentment and thanksgiving is lacking, then perhaps Jesus is not the center of your endeavors. Are you properly defining your “needs” as opposed to your “wants?” The Apostle Paul said, *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content”* (Philippians 4:11). So, this is just a reminder to always practice contentment and thanksgiving, in this scriptural context, not only just during the season of Thanksgiving, but more importantly, in all seasons of life overall! Thank God for what He has done, confidently knowing He will do more. Don’t look at what others have and feel insufficient. Each will reap in due season and in due time, as God sees fit accordingly. God will reward those who are faithful. So, the next time you take a CAT Scan, hopefully it will test positive for...“Contentment And Thanksgiving!”

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